

Overview of the Purpose of the TRS Workgroup

The Texas Rising Star (TRS) Workgroup was established by House Bill 376 (HB 376), enacted by the 83rd Texas Legislature. The purpose of the TRS Work Group is to recommend revisions to the TRS Program.

Membership appointed by TWC:

- The TRS Workgroup consists of the following entities:
- Texas Workforce Commission
- Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
- Texas Education Agency
- Texas Early Learning Council
- Local Workforce Development Board Member
- Texas Rising Star Providers (4)
- Texas School-Ready! Project Participant
- Local Workforce Development Board Staff

It is the intent of TWC to request participation from various stakeholders to assist the TRS Workgroup in making recommendations for revisions to TRS.

HB 376 Required Timeline:

- By November 1, 2013 the workgroup must hold its first meeting
- By May 1, 2014, the workgroup must submit recommendations proposing revisions to the TRS Program.
- By September 1, 2014, the Texas Workforce Commission shall propose rules that incorporate the proposed revisions suggested by the workgroup.

The Workgroup must take into consideration in making its recommendations:

- professional development standards for child-care directors and employees, including training and annual professional development requirements;
- education and experience requirements for mentors and evaluators;
- early learning and school readiness standards;
- guidelines for infants and toddlers in child care;
- training hours for providers;
- playground standards;
- best practices guidelines based on standards adopted by nationally recognized organizations, including Head Start Program Performance Standards, National Health and Safety Performance Standards, National Association of the Education of Young Children program standards and accreditation criteria, National Association for Family Child Care standards, United States Department of Defense standards, national accreditation standards, and School Ready certification standards;
- research on infant and toddler brain development; and
- strategies for the long-term financing of the TRS Program, including financing the payment of:
 - incentives to child-care providers participating in the program; and
 - grants and rewards to child-care providers that achieve and maintain high levels of service.